FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 AUGUST 1983

Iran-Iraq War

Iran launched a new offensive in the Mehran area over the weekend but the Iraqis, who had earlier predicted an Iranian attack in the central sector, said their forces crushed the Iranian advance. Iraqi forces killed 5,324 Iranians east of the Iraqi border town of Zurbatiyah, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed, and Iraqi aircraft launched intensive raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations in the area. A military communique carried by Tehran radio said the Iranians "liberated" three important heights overlooking the Mehran region, an Iranian and an Iraqi border post, and the Kanjan Cham River dam. Iranian forces smashed Iraqi counterattacks, killed over 3,000 Iraqis, and destroyed 15 enemy tanks and personnel carriers, according to a related radio report. Admitting that Iraqi air strikes were "gaining momentum," the radio said the Iraqis launched a series of "abortive" air raids to compensate for their defeats on the ground.

Earlier, Iranian troops implemented the "final push" of their offensive east of Ravanduz in northern Iraq, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. Iranian troops occupied the strategic heights in the area — which Iraq claimed earlier to have retaken — and captured 29 Iraqi positions, the communique claimed. Meanwhile, the Iraqi commander in the sector told a press conference that his forces are in complete control of the Hajj 'Umran area and that Iran has lost 8,920 men killed, 20 tanks, and 5 aircraft in its offensive in the northern sector, INA reported.

In another development, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned Iraq that the Iranians will soon have "other serious plans" for ending the war, according to IRNA. He urged young Iranians who have completed their military training to go to the warfronts because all conditions for ending the war and "wiping out the roots of corruption" in the region have been prepared.

Iran

Internal Developments — Commerce Minister Habibollah Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman and Labor Minister Ahmad Tavakkoli have submitted their resignations to President 'Ali Khamene'i, according to IRNA. The agency provided no further details about the resignations. In a separate development, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri warned against the dangers of "conceit and egoism" among the clergy, army, and Revolution Guards Corps, Tehran radio reported. It would be tragic if the revolution guards became subject to "delusions of grandeur," Montazeri stated. Meanwhile, eight Mojahedin-e Khalq activists were executed for assisting former President Abdolhasan Bani-Sadr's flight from the country in 1981, IRNA noted. The authorities also announced that former Navy Commander Captain Bahram Afzali will be tried this month along with other military members of the outlawed Tudeh Party, according to IRNA.

Hajj Dispute — Responding to Saudi Arabia's affirmation that the Kingdom will not prevent Iranian pilgrims visiting the holy places, an Islamic Guidance Ministry communique reported by IRNA accused the Saudi Government of forcing Saudi hoteliers to cancel agreements on the provision of accommodation for Iranian pilgrims.

PLO Affairs

Fighting in Al-Biqa' — Another cease-fire agreement was broken the night of 31 July-1 August when fighting resumed between Fatah dissidents and forces loyal to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Earlier, at a meeting in Shtawrah, Lebanese leftist parties and PLO representatives had decided to deploy a 100-man Lebanese-Palestinian force on the hills around Jdita and to have Syrian forces patrol in the town, according to the radio. Both factions were to withdraw, leaving only small administrative offices in the area.

Political Developments — The PLO reconciliation committee met in Damascus with dissident leaders 30 July, KUNA reported. After another meeting on the 31st, the committee declared that Syrian forces had not participated in the fighting, according to Damascus radio. This contention was belied by Radio Monte Carlo and Voice of Lebanon reports that Syrian forces had beseiged loyalist positions in the central Al-Biqa' 30 July. Meanwhile, in an announcer-read appeal broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, Yasir 'Arafat warned Arab leaders of the imminent "balkanization" of the area if joint action is not taken. 'Arafat accused Syrian and Libyan forces of "conspiring" against the PLO, comparing events in the Al-Biqa' with the Syrian attack on Palestinian and Lebanese forces in 1976. In another development, PNC Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Khalid al-Hasan told KUNA the PLO is ready to hold talks with Syria "at the highest level." Al-Hasan disclosed that Cuba recently proposed that the PLO, Lebanese parties, the USSR, and CUBA meet to smooth out Palestinian-Syrian differences. Al-Hasan hoped that Jordan would also attend such a meeting.

PCC Meeting 3 August — PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum invited the PLO Central Council to meet 3 August in Tunis, TAP reported. The Council is to discuss the internal Fatah struggle and the killings at Hebron University. Informed sources cited by Jordan's *Ar-Ra'y* speculated that, as some rebels have begun to return to the ranks, the Council may postpone any decisive action against them in order to give other rebels time to do the same.

Dissident Radio — Dissident leaders announced plans to set up a radio station in either Syria or the central Al-Biqa' under the name "Voice of the Palestinian Revolution," KUNA reported.

Lebanon

Phalangist and Druze forces began to reduce their military presence in the Ash-Shuf Mountains 30 July to help ease Lebanese Army deployment in the area after the IDF withdrawal, Radio Monte Carlo stated. President Amin al-Jumayyil has started to hold "secret contacts" with the goal of reconciling the Druze and Christian militias, according to a Cairo radio report. Meanwhile, a Lebanese Druze envoy delivered a message to Israeli Druze leaders which stated that the Druze will not allow the Lebanese Army or the multinational force to enter the Ash-Shuf region until the Lebanese Government agrees to grant them rights in the government, IDF Radio announced.

In Tripoli Fatah forces fought with local elements 31 July, the Voice of Lebanon announced. A Palestinian source in Tunis later denied this report, according to INA.

In other developments, the Syrians installed a new "sophisticated" SAM network in the town of Al-Qa' in northern Lebanon, the Voice of Lebanon disclosed. Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged gunfire 31 August on the 'Ammiq axis, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

In a speech broadcast by Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope radio, Major Sa'd Haddad accused Syria of intending to annex Lebanon and called on the Lebanese people to thwart the move. Haddad denied that Israel was planning to annex southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, an official Saudi Information Ministry spokesman denied that Saudi Arabia is participating in a Syrian-Lebanese mediation committee, SPA reported.

Israel

The Israeli and U.S. views on Lebanon are not far apart, and the most outstanding example of this was the U.S. agreement to Israel's redeployment plans, Defense Minister Moshe Arens announced in an interview with Jerusalem radio after returning from Washington. He urged the Lebanese Government to make firmer declarations against the Syrian presence in Lebanon in order to increase pressure on Syria to withdraw its troops. Earlier, in an interview with the radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel explained to the Americans and Lebanese that it wants the Lebanese Governent to handle civilian affairs in the area of southern Lebanon which the IDF will continue to occupy for Israel's security needs. After a 31 July Cabinet meeting during which Shamir briefed ministers on the talks in Washington, the Cabinet secretary denied that Israel has changed its position regarding a simultaneous withdrawal of foreign forces, according to the radio. Earlier, a Jerusalem political source cited by the radio had spoken of "signs of change" in Syria's stance in light of reports that Israel will consent to withdraw before the Syrians rather than simultaneously with them. The Americans are still "checking" whether Israel will agree to leave Lebanon before the Syrians, the radio subsequently stated.

Saudi Arabia

Jordanian King Husayn arrived in At-Ta'if and met with King Fahd and Defense Minister Prince Sultan, Riyadh television and Amman radio announced. In their talks the two monarchs affirmed the need for Israel to withdraw from Lebanon as well as the need to preserve the unity of Lebanon, Amman radio stated. They also stressed the importance of supporting the PLO and of preserving its unity and independence, the radio added.

A commentary broadcast by Riyadh radio called on Iran to end its "stubbornness" and to use commonsense in responding to peace efforts to end the war with Iraq.

Libya-Chad

Chadian President Hissein Habre appealed for French air support after Libyan planes attacked the town of Faya-Largeau, which was recaptured from the forces led by Goukouni Oueddei 30 July, AFP announced. The government troops, led by Habre personally, are trapped in the town. A Libyan spokesman cited by JANA "categorically denied" Libyan involvement in the fighting, admitting only "aerial reconnaissance flights inside its border" to monitor the situation. In a broadcast 31 July, the clandestine Radio Bardai conceded the loss of Faya-Largeau but claimed that the town was taken by a foreign mercenary force which is now trapped in the town, an AFP report noted. The radio also denied that Libyan planes had attacked the town.

Meanwhile, 10 prisoners said to be Libyan were displayed to Western journalists in Ndjamena 31 July, AFP stated.

Afghanistan

In response to remarks made by PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian in Pakistan on PRC support for the Afghan rebels' struggle, the DRA Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by BAKHTAR, termed the remarks "provocative." The statement blamed the PRC for the worsened relations between the two countries, citing Beijing aid to rebel camps. The DRA "strongly" protested the PRC interference, the statement concluded.

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Reportage on New Delhi South Asian Conference

28 July Preparatory Meeting

BK281411 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] The preparatory meeting of the foreign secretaries of the seven South Asian countries began in New Delhi this morning. It started with the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr.H.S. Ataul Karim, in the chair. He called upon the participating countries to elect the new chairman. Nepal proposed the name of Mr M. Rasgotra, India's foreign secretary, which was seconded by Pakistan. Mr Rasgotra, after assuming the chair, said that the present meeting marked a new era of cooperation and stability in the region. He expressed the hope that the meeting will launch an integrated program of action for regional cooperation.

The meeting will prepare the ground for the conference of foreign ministers beginning on Monday.

Draft Declaration Finalized

BK291718 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] In New Delhi, the foreign secretaries of South Asian nations today finalized the draft declaration for cooperation among the seven countries of the region. The declaration will be considered by their foreign ministers on Monday [1 August]. The ministers are expected to sign the declaration the next day, formally launching the integrated program of action for South Asian regional cooperation which has been on the anvil for about 2 years.

The declaration is in three sections. These set out the objectives and principles of the proposed regional cooperation, the institutional framework, and the financial arrangements. The draft suggests that decisions be taken with unanimity and bilateral and contentious issues kept out of the (?transit). Each country will voluntarily decide the funds it wishes to put up for regional cooperation. The group is also free to seek financial resources from outside. The foreign secretaries, who concluded their meeting today, have also drafted a joint communique for the consideration of the ministers.

Foreign Ministers Arrive

BK301826 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The Pakistani foreign minister, Mr Yaqub Khan, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon to take part in the conference of foreign ministers of South Asian nations beginning on Monday. The Foreign minister of Bhutan, Mr Dawa Tsering, also arrived in New Delhi this evening.

Gandhi Inaugurates Conference

BK010991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The prime minister has called upon South Asian countries to forge greater unity to withstand outside pressures and maintain stability in the region. Mrs Gandhi was inaugurating the first ever meeting of foreign ministers of seven South Asian countries for regional cooperation in New Delhi today. She urged them to avoid mutual differences and concentrate on the quest for peace and development. Referring to the disturbing and tragic developments in India's neighborhood, Mrs Gandhi said we cannot pretend that we are not affected by what happens elsewhere. She said ours is the troubled region, but our policy is not to interfere in the affairs of others. India, she said, is big in size, which means the proportion of her problems and difficulties is also gigantic. Therefore, she said, India does not want to take on more problems. The 2-day conference is being attended by foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bhutan besides India. The prime minister said this forum is exclusively for intensifying economic and technical cooperation in the region for greater self-reliance. Defining cooperation, Mrs Gandhi said the regional grouping is not directed against anyone else. She made it clear that we are not moved by any ideological or military considerations. Our cooperation does not limit each country's freedom of judgment. Speaking of the need for a wider framework of a people to people relationship, Mrs Gandhi said the past has shown how brittle is the cooperation based on narrowness of any kind. She said our aim is to work together and share our experiences in many areas. Highlighting the geographical closeness of the countries assembled, Mrs Gandhi said the same monsoon governs our lives. We have common problems of shortages of production and unemployment. But, she said, there are also natural and human resources waiting to be developed. The prime minister suggested that with better planning and greater exchange of information our capacities could be utilized fully. Emphasizing that confrontation is dangerous and unprofitable, Mrs Gandhi said something should be done to overcome the economic crisis facing the world. Proposing a vote of thanks to the prime minister, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, said that seven countries assembled in the Indian capital have already declared that they would grow together. He expressed gratitude to India for extending all facilities for the meeting.

Ministry Statement on PRC, Pakistani 'Intervention'
LD311958 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Statement issued by the DRA Foreign Affairs Ministry on 31 July 1983:

On arrival at Islamabad airort for an official visit to Pakistan on 25 July 1983, Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told representatives of the Pakistani mass media that his talks with the Pakistani authorities would concentrate on the Afghan issue, which is of great concern to China. He added that China and Pakistan both have a similar stand on this fundamental problem and that his official visit to Pakistan would result in strengthening both sides' stand in the issue.

Wu Xueqian also followed precisely the steps of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and visited Afghan counterrevolutionary camps in Naser Bagh, Peshawar, and northern Pakistan. He showed sympathy toward them and promised further assistance.

It should regretfully be pointed out that such provocative statements and actions not only indicate China's clear and repeated intervention in the DRA's internal affairs, but also show China's purposeful support for the Afghan counterrevolution and for the reaction of the region.

The objective of the leaders of certain imperialist countries and reaction of the region — headed by the United States and in collusion with the Chinese hegemonists, who have waged an undeclared imperialist war against the people of independent, progressive, and nonaligned DRA for over 4 years — is clear to the world: It is to eliminate the new regime, which is in the interests of the masses, to restore the old order, and ultimately to transform Afghanistan into a base of aggression and a springboard for war against the Soviet Union.

It is also known to everybody that Chinese representatives can usually be heard in the anti-Afghan chorus and that the Chinese hegemonists also share in the battlefield of imperialist propaganda and psychological warfare against the DRA.

Beijing cannot be unaware of the grave consequences of these activities. Such interventionist and provocative activities by the Chinese authorities, which are contrary to accepted international norms and standards, will not only further aggravate the situation around afghanistan and the Middle East, but will further help to maintain the plundering interests of the world imperialists and reaction of the region.

A question arises here that as to what sort of concern for this so-called fundamental problem is in the mind of the Chinese authorities, which allow the Chinese foreign minister to interfere in the country's internal affairs. Whose fault is it that relations between the two countries have become aggravated, especially since the victory of the national democratic April Revolution? The facts of the last few years prove that the PRC should be blamed for all this.

In the first few months after the victory of the April Revolution, the DRA Government was faced with all-round resistance from the United States in all spheres of international relations. It was at that time that Washington, Beijing, and Islamabad entered into discussions to harmonize their interventionist activities, as a result of which the three countries adopted the hostile anti-Afghan stand. When the first counterrevoluitonary bands were armed with U.S. weapons, Beijing also actively took part in the policy of establishing rebel camps and arming them with Chinese weapons.

With the aid of the United States and with the active cooperation of China, such camps were established in (Chetral), Jamrud, Kohat, Quetta, (Nawshar), and other regions bordering Afghanistan, in which U.S. and Chinese instructors were, alongside each other, training and arming Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

In January 1980, immediately after the victory of the new development stage of the April Revolution, the United States and China, pursuing their satanic policies in the region, reached agreement that they would in future consult each other concerning their reactions toward events in Afghanistan. In recent years, under the pretext of the so-called Afghan problem, not only have military cooperation between China and Pakistan expanded considerably, but the United States, on the one hand, is arming the Pakistani military regime to the teeth with modern U.S. weapons and, on the other hand, is equipping its military bases in the Indian Ocean with atomic weapons.

All these activities are not only anti-Afghan but also anti- Indian in character.

The United stated and PRC misuse the tribune of the United Nations and other international organizations in the interests of their aggressive policies and are continuing their sabotage activities through diplomatic and mass media channels. It is unnecessary to prove that PRC and U.S. representatives have been the main instigators of discussions and arguments on the problems around Afghanistan in the UN General Assembly.

In this way, Washington and Beijing are making mad efforts to fuel military confrontation beteen the DRA and Pakistan [as received], to prevent any political solution of the problems between Afghanistan and its neighbors, and to create a source of continuous tension in the region.

The DRA was, is, and will be a peace-loving country. Despite all imperialist and hegemonist destructive activities, our country is consistently continuing its peaceful policy. Revolutionary Afghanistan does not threaten any country, is not forming centers of aggression and intervention on its borders with other countries, and is not providing arms to any country or political force in any aprt of the world.

The DRA Foreign Ministry, strongly protesting China's repeated interventions in our country's internal affairs, announces that our people will advance fearlessly along the path they have chosen and that no power in the world will be able to block revolutionary Afghanistan's development toward progress and independence.

'Counterrevolutionaries Crushed' in Khanabad

LD282125 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] A 90-men band of counterrevolutionaries which was disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Khanabad District was recently crushed in the [name indistinct] village of that district. Their ringleader Molla Anwar was also killed.

According to a report by the Qonduz Province security force spokesman, some 8 [words indistinct], 2 guns, 3 mortars, 4 rocket launchers, 136 assorted light weapons, 4 antitank mines and over 42,000 rounds of ammunition were seized from these criminals.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a meeting was held on the occasion in Qonduz city, in which a large number of Qonduz inhabitants took part and which condemned the foul actions of the counterrevolution. At the end of the meeting, the audience toured the display of weapons captured from the counterrevolutionaries.

Rebel Explosives Discovered in Housing Factory

LD302104 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The rebels — those enemies of the people's tranquillity and security — once again chose to commit another crime. The criminal counterrevoluitonaries this morning planted explosives in two places at the house construction factory [in the vicinity of Kabul airport]; they wanted to massacre our country's toiling workers who are engaged in building houses and shelters for our homeless compatriots. However, these explosive substances were discovered and defused as a result of the awareness and vigilance of our devout and heroic security forces.

The counterrevolutionaries once again wanted to shed the blood of our fraternal workers and to set hundreds of families to mourn their beloved ones. But they did not know that the hand of justice and righteousness is more powerful than the non-Muslim rebels.

At a meeting on this occasion, which was held in the house construction factory, the workers of the factory exposed the crimes of the rebels and denounced the inhuman and anti-Islamic actions of the non-Muslims.

Karachi Reports Soviet Gunships Strafe Arghandab

BK291548 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] In Afghanistan Soviet helicopter gunships strafed Arghandab subdivision, northeast of Qandahar City. The Karmal administration has arrested about 2,500 persons to forcibly draft them into the army. According to news agency reports, there have also been clashes between the mujahidin and the Soviet mobile troops in various areas of this subdivision.

According to another report, a major clash between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces has taken place in the Paghman and Qonduz areas. The mujahidin are also reported to have destroyed two Soviet helicopter gunships last week in their sudden attack on Kabul Airport, which was being used by the Soviet-Karmal forces for operations against the mujahidin.

Mujahidin Leader Describes Current Situation

BK300307 Hong Kong AFP in English 0251 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, July 30 (AFP) — A leader of the Afghan Mujahideen, the guerrilla movement fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, has said here that the Mujahideen now controlled over ninety per cent of their country. Ghairat K. Baheer, director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen, told reporters yesterday following a meeting with the Malaysian deputy foreign minister, Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, that the Babrak Karmal government in Kabul could not even maintain control over all of the capital city.

Mr. Baheer, who is currently based in Canberra, is on a 2-week visit in Malaysia to mobilise support for the Afghan resistance movement, and planned to visit Indonesia, Fiji and New Zealand with a view to setting up information offices in the three countries, he said. He added that the Islamic Alliance represented all seven major Mujahideen groups fighting "the Soviet occupation troops."

The 26-year-old Afghan, a former medical student at Kabul University, also said that the Mujahideen had recently destroyed the Defence Ministry building and mounted several attacks on the Soviet Embassy and other strategic points in the heart of Kabul. "This shows how effective the administration of the puppet Babrak Karmal regime is," he said.

He added that the guerrillas, who have been able to stand up to the Soviet Union for the past five years, would ultimately win in the struggle. "We have shown that a super-power is not immortal," he said.

The resistance leader said that Mujahideen morale was high and that the guerrillas had been fighting with captured Soviet weapons and equipment. There had even been defections of disaffected Soviet soldiers, he said.

Mr. Baheer went on to say that Soviet casualties in the 5-year-old conflict were so heavy that the Soviet Army had begun disposing locally of the bodies of soldiers killed in the fighting, instead of flying them back to the Soviet Union for funerals. Mr. Baheer estimated total Soviet casualties in the fighting at between 45,000 and 50,000. There were about 140,000 Soviet troops currently in the country, he added.

During his stay in Malaysia, Mr. Baheer was scheduled to meet with representatives of several organizations, including the Muslim youth organisation, ABIM.

Ershad Returns From Maldives Visit 30 July

BK300750 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, returned to Dhaka this morning on conclusion of his 4-day official visit to the Maldives. He was received at the Zia International Airport by the two deputy chief martial law administrators, Cabinet ministers, diplomats, and high civil and military officials. The CMLA was scheduled to return to Dhaka yesterday afternoon, but it was delayed by some mechanical trouble in the Biman aircraft.

Joint Communique Cited

BK300807 Dhaka BSS in English 0650 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 30, (BSS) — Bangladesh and Maldives have expressed the hope that structured regional cooperation in South Asia would lead to the strengthening of relations in the region while contributing to the economic development.

The hopes were expressed in a joint communique issued Saturday at the end of a four-day official goodwill visit of Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad, president of the Bangladesh Council of Ministers, to the Indian Ocean island state of Maldives.

During the visit of Gen Ershad to Maldives bilateral and regional matters of mutual interests came up for discussions when he had talks with Maldivian President Mamoun Abdul Gayoom.

The two sides felt that the preparatory stage for formation of a structured regional cooperation forum for the South Asian countries had made substantial headway towards formal launching of an integreted programme of action.

The two South Asian leaders shared the expectation that the ensuing meeting of the foreign ministers of the South Asian countries in New Delhi beginning August 1, would successfully initiate the formal launching of the proposed forum.

On bilateral relations, the communique said, the Maldivian president had observed that the visit of the Bangladesh leader to his country was an important event on the future development of the already existing friendly relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed that the joint committee, set up during the visit to Male early this year of the Bangladesh foreign minister, should identify further areas of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two neighbourly countries.

The two leaders observed that the agreement to waive visas and the accord on cooperation in the fields of education, culture and sports, signed recently between the two countries, would greatly help to further strengthen their bilateral relations.

In this context, the communique pointed out that the two sides agreed to examine the possibility of establishing air links between the two capitals.

On the international plane, the two leaders expressed concern at the growing superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean and reiterated that peace in the region could not be ensured unless it was freed from such rivalry.

The two leaders called for immediate implementation of the United Nations resolution declaring the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

Shamsud Doha Departs for New Delhi Conference

BK310736 Dhaka BSS in English 0700 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 31, (BSS) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha left here for New Delhi today to take part in the first meeting of the foreign ministers for the proposed seven-nation South Asian forum beginning tomorrow in the Indian capital.

The two-day ministerial level meeting follows the just ended preparatory meeting of the foreign secretaries of these countries in the Indian capital. The New Delhi meeting is expected to formally launch the proposed regional forum for cooperation mooted originally by Bangladesh in 1980.

The New Delhi meeting of the foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka will be formally inaugurated by Indian Foreign Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Tomorrow's meeting in the Indian capital is expected to formally adopt the integrated programme of action for the proposed South Asian regional cooperation which was approved at the fourth meeting of the foreign secretaries held here in March this year.

The first meeting of the foreign ministers is also expected to discuss the question of holding a summit meeting of the seven heads of government to give a final seal of authority to the South Asian regional forum.

Gandhi Voices Concern Over Sri Lankan Situation

BK300809 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The Prime Minister has expressed her concern over the developments in Sri Lanka. Mrs Gandhi said it is basically an internal problem of Sri Lanka, but because some of our citizens are involved, we are very much concerned. It is a human problem, she added. Addressing newsmen in Gangtok yesterday, she said she will have a report from the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, on the situation there.

Asked about the proposal of a no-war pact with Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi said such a pact was offered first by Jawahar Lal Nehru. Subsequently, Lal Bahadur Shastri and myself renewed the offer. At that time Pakistan did not accept India's offer.

She pointed out that, after having acquired F-16 aircraft from America, Pakistan says it is now agreeable for a no-war pact. India's stand is thaht we should begin with a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation so that an atmosphere is created to take further steps.

About the demand for a personal law for the Sikhs, Mrs Gandhi said it involves complicated issues. She said most of the families in Punjab are socially interwoven and many marriages have taken place between the Hindus and the Sikhs. Some people have studied the issues and they have been asked to prepare a paper on the subject.

Referring to the demand for reservation of assembly seats for different ethnic groups in Sikkim, the prime minister said the government has to look into the various aspects of this issue.

About the demand for constitutional recognition of Nepali language, Mrs Gandhi said it is more an emotional rather than a rational plea. She pointed out that Nepali has been accepted by the Sahitya [Literature] Academy, which is giving all help for its development.

Answering a question, Mrs Gandhi said there is no constitutional provision for Sikkim as a tribal area. The Constitution, however, provides special facilities for the tribals.

'Anxiety, Concern' Expressed

BK311608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that the Government of India shares the anxiety and concern of the people of Tamil Nadu over the situation in Sri Lanka. She told a 16-member all-party delegation, who met her in New Delhi this evening that the government considers it as a national problem and not a problem of Tamil Nadu alone. She appealed to all the parties to stand by the government in its efforts to ensure speedy return of normalcy in Sri Lanka.

The delegation, led by the state chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, presented Mrs Gandhi a memorandum conveying the anxiety of the Tamil Nadu people over the incidents. The meeting, which lasted a little over an hour, was attended by the ministers for external affairs, finance, and defense.

The prime minister also told the delegation that the center is in touch with the Sri Lanka Government. An hour-to-hour contact with our high commission in Colombo is being maintained.

She appealed to all parties to ensure that no passions are aroused and nothing is done to aggravate the situation either in India or in Sri Lanka. She recalled a discussion in Parliament in which all parties had taken a united stand on the issue.

Mrs Gandhi announced that all the central government offices in Tamil Nadu will remain closed on Tuesday as a mark of solidarity with the state government's decision to close its offices in protest against the violence against Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The external affairs minister also apprised the delegation of the outcome of his visit to Sri Lanka. He said he had also met the leaders of the people of Indian origin there and they wanted that the trouble should be stopped immediately.

Narasimha Rao Reports on Trip to Sri Lanka

BK301706 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] India is sending a ship to Colombo to carry displaced people of Indian origin to Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka. The situation in Sri Lanka continues to be abnormal and tension is persisting. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi this evening that the ship is being sent after consultations with the Sri Lankan authorities. India will also be sending relief supplies including food and medicines.

The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, who had made an air dash to Colombo, gave his assessment of the situation in Sri Lanka to the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, shortly after she returned to the capital cutting short of her visit to Sikkim. He also reported to her about his discussions with the Sri Lankan leaders.

According to his assessment, the situation in Sri Lanka is not yet under control. Incidents are still taking place along with violence against Tamils. Mr Rao conveyed India's sense of anxiety over the situation to President Jayewardene and other Sri Lankan leaders. According to the spokesman, President Jayewardene told Mr Narasimha Rao that the Government of Sri Lanka will be doing everything in their power to restore peace and normalcy. Asked whether India will be sending any security forces to assist the Sri Lankan authorities in bringing the situation under control, the spokesman replied that India has not yet received any such request. A request like that can be considered only when it is received.

The spokesman recalled India's repeated assertion that developments in Sri Lanka are basically their internal affairs; however, the violence and damage inflicted on Indian nationals, stateless Sri Lankan residents of Indian origin, and Sri Lankan Tamil citizens who have strong personal and cultural ties with the people of Tamil Nadu made it incumbent on India to convey its

deep concern to the Sri Lankan Government and heart-felt sympathey for the affected people. Mr Rao conveyed (?his) anxiety to President Jayewardene during his 24-hour visit to Colombo. He also inquired about their relief requirements and offered India's assistance to Sri Lankan authorities in their program of rehabilitating the displaced people. Sri Lankan authorities are examining their needs and they will get in touch with India after working out the details. A representative of the Indian Red Cross is going to Colombo at the instance of the International Red Cross.

During his visit to Sri Lanka, Mr Narasimha Rao had two rounds of talks with President Jayewardene and also met the prime minister, Mr Premadasa; the external affairs minister, Mr Hameed; the rural industrial development minsiter, Mr Thondaman, the regional development minister, Mr Rajadurai, the home minister, Mr Devanayagam; and the minister for land development, Mr Gamini Dissanayake. Mr Rao spoke over telephone with the leader of opposition, Mr Amirthalingam, of the Tamil United Liberation Front, and Mr (Sivsidavaram), member of parliament from Trincomalee, which is one of the worst-hit areas. Besides them, he met a large section of Indians and people of Indian origin, visited the Indian chancery, and met the staff of the High Commission. In Kandy he had similar meetings besides getting a report from the assistant high commissioner there.

The spokesman made it clear that the Sri Lankan Government appreciated India's decision to send its foreign minister to Colombo. Mr Rao stayed at the Presidential Palace and his visit was clearly regarded as an act of good neighborliness which was thus intended to be.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Mr Narasimha Rao did not go to the refugee camps as the Sri Lankan authorities told him that in the present conditions it might be better if he did not visit them. But they and the others gave him a full account of the situation in the camps. It appears that the camps are still being set up and there are shortages of rations, medicines, and water. An official of the Indian High Commission in Colombo, who had been injured, has been brought to Delhi in the special plane in which the foreign minister traveled.

The president, Giani Zail Singh, had a talk today on the telephone with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. Mr Rao apprised the president of his talks with the Sri Lankan Government leaders.

In Sri Lanka, the situation in Colombo is reported to be calm but tense. The capital is under round-the-clock curfew after the outbreak of new violence during the curfew break yesterday. Troops have stepped up patrol in the worst hit areas. According to a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA report, the Sri Lankan Government has appointed 10 senior military officers and 3 top officials to coordinate military and civilian operations in 13 districts outside the capital to deal with the situation.

Meanwhile, a second ship with more than 400 Tamil refugees will sail from Colombo for the northern city of Jaffna tomorrow. According to the Sri Lankan officials, 8,000 Tamils have requested evacuation to the north.

In another development, the Sri Lanka Government has banned three Marxist parties. A government spokesman said in Colombo that President Jayewardene outlawed them using emergency powers. The banned parties are the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna — People's Liberation Front, and the Nava Lanka Samasamaj Party — New Socialist Party.

Bhandari Returns From Middle East Talks

BK310907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, has ended his visit to eight Arab countries in a bid to solve the West Asia crisis. The countries are Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Lebanon. Mr Bhandari also discussed the matter with the PLO and the Arab League.

The Indian initiative was made in the context of the responsibility developing on the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, as the chairperson on an eight-nation committee on the Palestinian question set up by the New Delhi nonaligned summit. Mrs Gandhi also exchanged some letters on the issue with the U.S. president, Mr Reagan. India will now make use of the next favorable opportunity at the UN conference on Palestine in Geneva next month to discuss the problem.

AFP: Sikh Leader Says No Reduction in Demands

BK280825 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Excerpts] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) — Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal today announced he had not reduced Sikh demands for Punjab autonomy as suggested by the Indian media here and said the campaign was "growing stronger every day." "We still have the original 45 demands and we will not rest till they are met," Mr. Longowal said in an interview. Confusion arose after the Indian media interpreted a letter written by Mr. Longowal to members of the Indian Parliament which listed only 12 of the 45 demands.

"I did that thinking that to list all the 45 demands in letters will be too much. I just mentioned the main 12 demands...but that does not mean we have given up the others," he said. The demands range from re-naming a train after their holy temple, to allowing Sikh air passengers to carry swords aboard planes.

The Indian Government mainly objects to one of the resolutions, which calls for greater political autonomy for the rich farming state bordering Pakistan, saying that it was a first step towards separation of the state from the Indian union. The government also objects to another demand which says that "Sikhs are a nation." Mr. Longowal clarified this point by saying he wanted a separate Sikh identity within the Indian Constitution, but officials here read it as a step towards a demand for a separate identity for the Sikhs.

"We are saying that the Sikhs are a nation as we fear that like Buddhists and Jains, we may also lose our identity in the vast ocean of overwhelming Hindu majority," Mr. Longowal said.

The other Sikh demands are:

—Installations of a radio transmitter within the premises of the Golden Temple in Amritsar — seat of the Sikh religion.

—A holy status for Amritsar.

—The inclusion of Chandigarh, now shared by Punjab and Hindu-dominated Haryana as their joint capital, into Punajb.

—The enactment of a new law on Sikh temples which are a source of income for the Sikh organisation now backing the autonomy drive.

—A fair sharing of river waters.

—Changes in the recruitment rules of Sikhs in the Indian Army.

—The removal of all restrictions on carrying swords at all places.

—The unconditional release of Sikhs held in prisons.

—An end to the reported eviction of Sikh peasants from the adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

Radical Sikhs To Form Underground Government
BK290741 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 29 Jul 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 29 (AFP) — Radical members of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, said today that they would form an underground government of Khalistan, or Sikh state, by next month in north India as they pursue their campaign for a separate homeland. In a letter to Akali Dal members, which advocated secession from the Indian union and the establishment of a separate Sikh homeland, Balbir Singh Sandhu, the Khalistan leader in India has said that he was convening a meeting of like-minded party workers in August to finalise details.

According to well-informed Sikh sources, the formation of the underground government could be announced on August 15 — Indian independence day. It would be based in the Sikh holy temple in Amritsar — the present seat of the Sikh religion and the Akali Dal. Sukhjinder Singh, a former minister in the 1977-79 Akali Dal government in Punjab, was likely to be selected as prime minister. He is seen as a member of the militants' hard core. A full-fledged cabinet would also be announced and the government's "programme" would be made public, the sources said.

The move came amidst reports that the radicals in the party were gaining strength following failure of the present moderate leadership to get the federal government to meet their demands. This failure was causing concern among the moderate leadership. They were finding it increasingly difficult to cope with growing frustration in the party's rank and file, Sikh sources said.

Meanwhile, senior federal officials, reacting to the move, described it as a publicity stunt. They held that it would be wrong to say that the moderates in the Akali Dal were losing ground. But some officials, who closely monitor developments in Punjab, said that the situation in the state had changed drastically in the past year. They said that the Sikh protest movement, which earlier was confined to the towns, had penetrated rural areas of the predominently agricultural Punjab state. "A Sikh in a village now talks about his rights and he knows what is going in the state. This is something very new and alarming," said one official who asked not to be named.

Yaqub Khan Leaves for New Delhi Conference

BK300701 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has left Islamabad for New Delhi to attend a foreign ministers conference of seven South Asian countries. The conference will begin Monday.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the foreign ministers will launch an integrated program of action to promote regional cooperation. This program has been drafted by the foreign secretaries at their meeting. He said the cooperation between the seven regional countries is in their overall interest and will help create an atmosphere of understanding among these countries.

Answering a question, he said he will be in close contact during the conference with his Indian counterpart, Narasimha Rao, but there will be no exchange of views on bilateral issues.

Radio Pakistan's representative says this will be the first conference of the South Asian foreign ministers.

Report on Future System of Government Adopted

BK311101 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The Majlis-i-Shoora today adopted the special committee's report on the form and system of government in the country after a 7-day thorough debate. As many as 148 members spoke on the report and made a number of suggestions with regard to the future system of government. All of them were unanimous that the future system of the government must conform to Islam, which is the basis of the creation of Pakistan. They pointed out that only the Islamic system could meet the needs and aspirations of the people. The members were also emphatic in the demand for banning those political parties which were working against the ideology of Pakistan.

Winding up the debate, the chairman of the special committee Mr Fida Mohammad Khan said the 30-member committee had thoroughly examined the proposals submitted by the members as well as those received from the people. Some members suggested the presidential form of government and the system of Khilafat. However, the consensus reached by the committee was that 1973 Constitution could be the basis for future form of government. He said they prepared the framework for the good of the country and not for any individual. He said they felt that 1973 Constitution was not an un-Islamic one and if drastic changes were brought about in it this would have to be referred to the nation for a referendum.

He said the committee had suggested certain amendments to achieve a balance in powers between the president and prime minister and changing of party alignments. He said the report, along with dissenting notes and a summary of speeches made by the members during the debate, will be submitted to the president. The house adopted a motion to this effect moved by him.

Speaking on the motion, the law minister, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, recounted the history of constitution making in Pakistan and said that the report will be considered by the president, who has an open mind. He said the president will make an announcement on the 14th of August on the future framework. The law minister said that there was a general agreement that the system of government should be based on Islamic democracy, Pakistan's ideology, and according to the ideals of Quaid-i-Azam. It must guarantee unity, solidarity, and integrity of the coutnry.

Preparations for NWFP Elections Under Way

BK010532 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] In the Northwest Frontier Province, nomination papers for elections to local bodies are being filed tomorrow. Scrutiny of the papers will be held on 4 August and a list of validly nominated candidates will be published on 8 August. Polling will be held on 1 September next.

The Northwest Frontier Province governor has promulgated an ordinance under which any person who has remained an executive committee member or office bearer of any political party at any level on or after the 20th of December 1971 will be disqualified to become a member of any tier of the local bodies. The ordinance, however, provides that the members of the federal or provincial cabinets or of the federal, provincial, or any local council, or any other council immediately before coming into force of the ordinance will not be affected by the ordinance. The ordinance, which amends the Northwest Frontier Local Governments Ordinance 1979, comes into force at once.

MRD To Boycott Local Bodies Elections

GF010540 Karachi Dawn in English 25 Jul p 1

[Excerpts] The MRD Central Action Committee at its meeting in Karachi on Sunday decided to boycott the forthcoming elections to the local bodies [LB] and appealed to all the "democratic parties to follow suit" in the national interest. A resolution adopted on the subject said that these elections "are a fraud upon the people", designed to "perpetuate the present rule." The Action Committee said categorically: "All the component parties (of the MRD) shall not take part in the LB elections in any manner whatsoever."

The MRD acting convener, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, who presided over the meeting, told newsmen at Mr Abid Zuberi's residence that the Action Committee gave final touches to the programme relating to the Aug. 14 pro-democracy movement.

He said the MRD on Aug. 14 will hold meetings and stage demonstrations in Karachi at the Quaid-i-Azam's Mazar, in Lahore at Minar-i-Pakistan and in Peshawar a Chowk Yadgar. For Quetta, Rawalpindi-Islamabad and other cities the provincial bodies of the MRD have been authorised to select the venue for launching the movement, he added.

Political Leader Favors Dialogue With Zia

GF010547 Karachi Dawn in English 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, July 24 — The chief of the defunct Jamaat Islami Mian Tufail Mohammad told a press conference here on Sunday that President's August 14 announcement would yield some desired results. He, however, warned that if President Ziaul Haq failed to present an Islamic framework in keeping with the national aspirations, the nation would then come out on the streets and formulate a line of action to get rid of the present regime. He said the Jamaat would meet after August 14 in order to draw its line of action in the light of President Zia's announcement. He said leaders of all political parties, social organisations and the present rulers, military or otherwise, should bear in mind that half portion of the ship in which we all were sailing had already drowned and the enemies in and outside Pakistan were bent upon destroying even the remaining part of it.

He appealed to the political parties to desist from mud-slinging and work for the integrity and solidarity of the country. Answering a question, he said that all the problems could be solved with harmony and cooperation. He said when we could enter into dialogue with a dictator like late Mr Bhutto during his regime, why we could not hold talks with President Zia for restoration of democracy and transfer of power.

He urged upon the government to create congenial atmosphere for holding a dialogue with the politicians on how to transfer power. He told a questioner that Jamaat was not in favour of delaying or postponing the ensuing local bodies election, that some people were of the view that the government had selected September for local bodies elections, with the main objective of depriving 56 thousands people of participating and casting their vote in the elections because they would be performing hajj during the polls.

He said PPP [Pakistan People's Party] was in league with the government and had its representatives in Majlis-e-Shoora and various tiers of local bodies. He told the newsmen that when late Mr Bhutto had let loose a reign of terror on us, he even then prayed to Almighty Allah in Ka'bah to guide him (Bhutto) on the right path and enable him to run the country on the road to progress and prosperity because Bhutto was intellectual and man of qualities. But luck did not favour him.

Later, speaking at a reception given in his honour and Mr Mohd Aslam Saleemi by Tehrik Islami Hyderabad at Basant Hal, Mian Saheb urged party workers to participate in local bodies elections and elect honest and godfearing persons who could solve people's problems and mitigate their sufferings. He said MRD comprised Jagirdars, waderas [feudal landlords] etc who were sucking the blood of poor people and amassing huge sums to contest general elections. He demanded that general elections should be held on the oasis of proportional representation and separate electorate.

Earlier Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, the naib amir [vice-president] called the MRD as the "murderers" of democracy which was working for Russian interest as it had never raised any voice of protest at the mass massacre of Muslims, Afghan mujahideen and killings of Muslims in Assam.

NEPAL

Foreign Minister Leaves for South Asia Meeting

BK311620 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Minister for Foreign Affairs Padma Bahadur Khatri left Katmandu this evening at the head of a 10-member Nepalese delegation to the first ministerial meeting of the seven South Asian countries which opens in New Delhi tomorrow. In a statement before leaving for New Delhi this evening, Mr Khatri said this indeed is a historic occasion in the sense that this meeing for the first time reiterates the determination of the countries of this region to record a viable and practical framework for cooperation amongst themselves with a view to accelerate the process of socioeconomic development of the region to the mutual and cooperate benefit of all nations of South Asia.

Mr Khatri said the meeting marked the (?interest) and the efforts of these countries to attain these ends. The foreign secretaries of seven countries, after their four meetings in Colombo, Katmandu, Islamabad, and Dhaka, have already identified nine areas of cooperation. He said the meeting of the foreign ministers will now consider the draft declaration approved by the foreign secretaries meeting in New Delhi, which among other things includes the question of holding a summit-level meeting.

Nepal is taking part in the meeting with hope of optimism and is ready and willing to go along with other countries on finding an integrated approach to the realization of the program of action identified by the seven countries of the region, the minister for foreign affairs added.

Minister for Supplies and Water Resources Pashupati Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana will look after the Foreign Affairs Ministry until the return of Foreign Affairs Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri, who left Katmandu today to participate in the South Asian regional conference of foreign ministers to be held in New Delhi to augment mutual cooperation among nations of South Asia. This was stated in a notice published today by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king.

SRI LANKA

Rumors of Terrorist Acts in Colombo Denied

BK291411 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Rumors that northern terrorists have fired at security forces in Colombo are totally false. It is being confirmed that not a single Eelam Tiger or terrorist has been identified while engaged in terrorist acts in Colombo nor has any damage or violence taken place which can be attributed to such terrorists. The government also confirmed that this rumor was totally false. A communique says that this has been done to incite acts of violence and to embarrass the government.

It is now confirmed that the rumor regarding the attacks on the Armed Forces by terrorists in Colombo was sparked off by an incident in (Gasuwa) Street shortly before noon today. A hand-bomb had been thrown at an Army patrol from in (Gasuwa) Street. The Army opened fire on three persns, killing two of them and injuring the other. During the course of the firing, one soldier accidentally shot himself and later succumbed to his injuries.

Security forces opened fire in two other areas on persons engaged in looting and arson. Following this, two people were killed at (Gahmalana) — one at the eye hospital junction, Colombo, and (?the other) in Dehiwela-Mount-Lavinia. Troublemakers are taking advantage of these incidents to create confusion in the city and to engage in futher acts of looting. Members of the public have been urged to keep calm. There is no reason to fear for the safety of the citizens of Colombo.

AFP: 14 Looters Killed

BK291613 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 29 (AFP) — Security forces killed 14 looters in the suburbs of Columbo today and one soldier died accidentally, official sources said, raising the death toll from ethnic violence since saturday to 105 by unofficial counts. Meanwhile the curfew will continue for 35 and a half hours in the Colombo and neighbouring Gampaha Districts until 4 a.m. on Sunday, the government announced. Elsewhere it will be relaxed at dawn tomorrow and reimposed at dusk.

Gunfire crackled through the capital today and the first tanks were seen on patrol since the outbreak of violence by the indigenous Sinhalese majority against minority Tamils, which has also left at least 35,000 homeless. Security forces were visible throughout the city, including personnel from the Air Force, Army, police, and young volunteers too, observers said, in response to a government for volunteers. Two armoured cars were used in a bazaar area of Colombo, they said.

Penalties for Looting

BK301350 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Nearly 500 looters have been arrested in the Colombo district over the last 24 hours. The security forces opened fire on looters in several areas resulting in the deaths of many offenders and [words indistinct]. The minister of defense announced that any person found guilty of the offenses of looting or arson are liable to (?suffer) death penalty or imprisonment for life. Those [words indistinct] looted goods are liable to a penalty of imprisonment ranging from 10 to 20 years. Any one [words indistinct] looted property is liable to the same penalty.

Colombo Curfew Set; Situation Said Calm

BK301114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The curfew within the Colombo Municipal limits, the Colombo District, and the Gamhapa District is now in force. The general situation throughout Colombo is calm. In other districts, the curfew ended at 0430 this morning. In these districts it will

be reimposed at 5 pm today and will be relaxed tomorrow at 0430 am. People are advised to stay in their homes during curfew hours. Gathering together in groups for purposes of discussion and gossip is ill-advised. Affected persons in camps are safe. Several social and welfare organizations have called for assistance and medical aid for the people in the camps.

Curfew Hours Relaxed

BK311310 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] The curfew now enforced throughout the island will be relaxed at 0430 tomorrow, Monday, 1 August. It will be reimposed the same day at 1400 and will continue till 0400 on Tuesday, 2 August.

All public offices and corporations will be closed tomorrow. However, those engaged in essential services will report to duty unless exempted by their heads of department.

Prime Minister on 'Antigovernment Elements'

BK301131 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that there are all sorts of rumors circulated in the country by antigovernment elements to create panic among the people. If the people fell prey to these rumors and acted without any sense of responsibility,it would be difficult for the government to take necessary action to maintain law and order. Mr Premadasa has appealed to the people not to be misled by those who had ulterior political motives. Those who could not gain power by the ballot were now resorting to the use of the bullet to achieve their end.

Referring to parties who advocate separatism, the prime minister said that no one will be permitted to clamor for such a cause once the legislation to proscribe such movements is presented in Parliament.

Minister Charges 'Conspiracy' Against Government

BK310254 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] The present situation in the country is causing concern not merely because it is a Sinhalese-Tamilian riot, but because it is a deeper conspiracy to further deteriorate the situation and attempts are continuing to overthrow the present government. Minister of State Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, presenting his description of the current situation in the country in a broadcast over the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation yesterday, said that a general pattern of events shows that those involved are guided by definite instructions and directives. He said: Looking at the sequence of events and their results brings one to conclude that underground selfish political elements want to break the patience of the people. In the incidents of looting, looters, instead of looting of goods and commodities, are spreading terror.

De Alwis said that the looters have names and addresses of the people and they know excatly where to go. The operations are preplanned. The looters took the names and addresses from the election register.

The minister said the government has information that the plan has three stages: to start a Sinhalese-Tamilian riot to exploit the current situation, to begin riots between the Sinhalese people and the Muslims, and finally to create a rift among the Sinhalese people themselves. The modus operandi of the plan was rumormongering. The hatchers of conspiracy believed that through their misdeed the armed services would become divided, thus leading to the collapse of the military arm of the government.

The minister said that the minds of certain foreign powers are involved in the master plan of this deep conspiracy and that it has been plotted with the cooperation of some political parties. Secret meetings were held with terrorists in this connection. The plans were also made to create a food shortage in markets.

He said if the plan had succeeded, Sri Lanka's progress would have been greatly endangered, because the people are beginning to realize the extent of unemployment resulting from violence.

He emphasized that the disciplined section of the society has extended its full support to the government. Everyone's family is in danger and the solution to the problem is in the hands of the people. To overcome the present situation, the people should eschew rumormongering and extend full support to the government.

The minister called on the people to keep aloft the unity and brotherhood in this hour of shame and cooperate with the government in ensuring a free society for us and our children.

Three Parties Outlawed

BK301606 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Three political parties were proscribed by the president today. They are the Janata Vimukhti Peramuna [People's Liberation Front], the Nava Lanka Samasamaj [New Socialist]Party, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka. This order was made by the Paragraph 1 of Regulation 68 of the Emergency Law.

Authorities Close Printing Presses

BK311313 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Four printing presses were seized by the police yesterday on the orders of the competent authority. They are: the (Jeybansi press), (Justice press), the Ceylon Communist Party press, the Nava Samasamaj Party press, and the (Dimapara press). The closure of the presses were ordered by the competent authority under section 13/7 of the emergency regulations.

Restrictions on Political Activities

BK311416 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Members of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, the Sri Lanka Communist Party, and the Nava Samasamaj Party are barred from holding meetings, [words indistinct] any instructions which they are bound to follow by the members of such parties. The day-to-day activities of these parties have also been banned. These three parties were proscribed yesterday by the president under Paragraph 1 of Regulation 58 of the Emergency Law. The proscribing will be effective during the emergency. Any person associated with these parties will face severe penalty ranging from loss of civic rights, forfeiture of movable and immovable property, life imprisonment, or even death.

Parliament meets on Thursday, 4 August, to debate the sixth amendment of the Constitution under the [words indistinct]. Under the sixth amendment, they will continue to be members of such parties though they face the penalties of loss of civic rights, forfeiture of property, life imprisonment, or death. This amendment (?has been brought in) under emergency regulations. Therefore, its clauses will be functional even after the lapse of the emergency.

Spokesman on Party Ban, Latest Death Toll

BK311445 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] There is no evidence of any kind that the Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF] had been (?rejected) as citable for the situation that arose in the evening of Sunday, 24 July. However, there are good evidences that the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna, the Nava Samasamaj Party, and the Communist Party of Sri Lanka have been involved in the events that took place. This is why the government has decided to proscribe these parties, and not the TULF, under emergency regulations No 58. Parties which are banned under this regulation are those which have committed, in the (?light) of their [affiliation], action prejudicial to public safety, the law and order, or to the maintenance of essential services. This was emphasized by the secretary to the Ministry of State, Douglas Liyanage, when he answered questions on why the TULF had not been included in the list of parties that had been proscribed at a news conference held today. He said that the government had already taken measures through the (?fifth) amendment to the Constitution which is before the parliament and the courts of law to deal with the activities of the TULF.

Mr Liyanage said that the number of incidents of communal violence had decreased. Except for some sporadic disturbances in certain areas yesterday, the situation in most parts of the country was quiet. He said that 179 deaths have occurred since 25 July. Ths includes the 52 people who lost their lives in the Welikade jail. The situation in Jaffna is very quiet, according to the secretary. He revealed that Sinhala families living in the northern areas have been moved out temporarily as a security measure. He also disclosed that another vessel would leave Colombo carrying a group of displaced persons to the north.

Replying to questions from several foreign journalists, Mr Liyanage made it clear that Sri Lanka had placed no restrictions on a French journalist entering the country at this critical time. All regular airlines recommended to continue their normal flight schedule. Tourists who are in the island at present are quite safe and security will be provided if any tourist requests for it. The government has [word indistinct] advised all Sri Lankan high commissions and embassies abroad to discourage people desirous of coming to Sri Lanka on vacation in the present circumstances.

Coordinating Officers for Districts Named

BK301354 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The president, under emergency regulations, has appointed coordinating officers for each administrative district.

Colombo Foodstuffs Controlled

BK010319 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government yesterday took control of the goods lying in the closed shops of Colombo. A special official squad forced the shopowners to open their shops, and the foodstuffs available there were handed to the cooperative wholesale establishment [CWE], the commissioner general for essential services, (Sadmen Weerakoon), said. The CWE will distribute these foodstuffs among consumers. A total of 30 such shops were opened yesterday, and the foodstuffs were placed under government control. This drive will continue today.

A mobile service has been started in Colombo for the distribution of foodstuffs. Mr (Weerakoon) said this service will continue even during curfew hours. Vegetables are to be brought from Kandy by train. The commissioner general said this step will help traders purchase essential commodities from the wholesale establishment.

Many foodstuffs are to be imported immediately. Onions, dried chillis, potatoes, and canned fish are among those foodstuffs to be imported. The unloading of cargo at the Colombo airport is being expedited.

Commissioner General of Essential Services Named

BK311117 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Secretary to the prime minister (Sadmen Weerakoon) has been appointed commissioner general of essential services for the whole island. The appointment was made by the president yesterday under the emergency regulations.

The commissioner general of essential services has been entrusted with the task of coordinating all services with regard to the supply and distribution of food, fuel, electricity, and water. He will coordinate public transport services for passengers and

goods, the discharge of cargo from all ports, and the maintenance of hospital, postal, telecommunication, and broadcasting services. He will also have power of requisition of buildings, equipment, vehicles, aircraft, and ships.

The office of the commissioner general of essential services will be located at Royal College, Colombo. It consists of representatives of all ministries, liaison from the armed services and the police, and representatives of the government agents of the districts.

AFP: Casualties From Racial Incidents Reported

BK311438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 31 Jul 83

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 31 (AFP) — Serious racial incidents today killed an unspecified number of people in the planation region of central Sri Lanka, the government announced. The government also said that it planned to particially lift the nationwide curfew tomorrow (Monday).

An official spokesman said that government forces had regained control over the situation following yesterday's violence which left 57 dead, half of them in the capital city. Yesterday's incidents took place in Nurawaeliwa District, in the mountainous center of the country where Tamil laborers, who originally came from southern India during the British colonial period, work on Sinhalese tea plantations. Other "minor" incidents also occured elsewhere in the country yesterday, the spokesman added.

The most recent official death toll lists 179 people killed in clashes between majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils between July 25 and July 29, with 90 of the dead in Colombo. But several unofficial estimates said the rioting had left some 500 people dead.

Part of the Tamil community here, most heavily concentrated in the northern district of Jaffna, has been calling for a separate state in the country.

The television earlier reported that 500 looters were arrested yesterday and repeated that people found stealing goods from Tamil houses and shops destroyed during the violence could face the death penalty or life imprisonment. In Jaffna, families of Sinhalese who are in the minority there, have sought refuge in Sinhalese areas, an official source said. Authorities have opened more than a dozen camps, mainly around Colombo, where some 50,000 Tamils who have lost their homes or fear for their lives have taken refuge. A group of 8,000 Tamil refugees who wanted to return to the north were evacuated by boat Friday and yesterday from Colombo to Jasfna.

The Indian Government and several other countries have offered humanitarian aid to the Sri Lankan authorities, who are considering several propositions. A French diplomat, who visited a refugee camp set up in a Colombo school, said that the Tamils there were well-treated despite the cramped conditions. He added that the camp was under strong military protection.

The Sri Lankan Government has instructed foreign ambassies here to discourage tourists from visiting the island "for the moment." The French, British and U.S. Governments have warned their nationals against going to Sri Lanka. But despite the number of tourists attempting to leave, Colombo airport is functioning normally and the majority of flights are ensured.

AFP: Tamil Official on Underground Struggle

BK311529 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] New Delhi, July 31 (AFP) — The Sri Lanka Government's decision to ban the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) would force it to join the armed struggle of the underground liberation movement for a separate Tamil state, an official of the Sri Lanka Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) said today. A PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) report from Madras quoted Mr Mukundan as saying that the TULF's faith in parliamentary democracy must now be shattered. It would have to go underground and take to arms, the PLOTE general secretary said.

With the ban on three leftist parties yesterday, the Sinhalese working class would also fight the "capitalist Jayewardene government," Mr Mukundan said.

Mr Mukundan was released on conditional bail by the Madras High Court last Thursday along with two other members of the Sri Lanka Liberation "Tiger" Movement from the Madras central jail where they were held in connection with a shooting incident involving rival groups of Lankan "Tigers" in the city last May.

Mr Mukundan said he would leave for Sri Lanka in a week or two after he was totally set free.

Minister Notes Recent Government Setbacks

BK010400 Colombo International Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The current spate of violence has destroyed what the present government had achieved during the past 6 years, and under attack. These observations were made by the lands, development, and Mahaweli development minister, Gamini Dissanayake, in a broadcast by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. He said the government had made significant strides in such projects as the Mahaweli development program. A total of 150,000 people will lose their jobs in the aftermath of violence.

Mr Dissanayake said Sri Lanka's image has been tarnished both within and outside the country. To alienate Sri Lanka from the international community, to impede the process of development, and to destroy the economy were the motives of the saboteurs. The people were prepared to spread violence.

The government is aware that the people defeated in elections or rejected by the public are responsible for the current incidents. The defeated people do not believe in democracy even though they know that most of the people want unity and all communities have faith in democracy. The people who took reins of power through the democratic process should be given the opportunity to implement their policies.

Mr Dissanayake shared the views of Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis that the current incidents had a definite shape. The minister said plantation officials had always favored the government, and they are responsible for two-thirds of Sri Lanka's foreign exchange earnings.

The minister gave assurances that President Jayewardene will take every possible step to curb separatism. He stressed the need for unity and peace in the country. We will have to work in unity to bring about prosperity in the life of the Sri Lankan people once again. The government will once again begin the economic reconstruction program, the minister added.

The minister appealed to the people to provide their fullest cooperation to the government to bring the situation in the country to normal.

Commerce, Labor Ministers Submit Resignations

LD311107 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Minister of Commerce Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi and Minister of Labour Ahmad Tavakkoli here today submitted their resignation to Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

The two ministers are the first ones to resign in the Prime Minister Musavi's cabinet which was formed in November 1981.

Ayatollah Meshkini on Council of Experts Sessions

LD292253 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Qom, July 29, IRNA — The Friday prayers leader of Qom and the chairman of the Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, said today that the Assembly of Experts had not so far discussed the issue of the future leadership in the country. He said he hoped Imam Khomeyni would remain the imam of the ummah (Islamic nation) until the appearance of Imam Mahdi (A.S.), the hidden 12th imam of the Shi'ite Muslims.

According to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, the most important taks of the Assembly of Experts is to determine the future leader or members of the leadership council if a unanimously popular personality from among the ulema did not exist.

(?Talking) in this week's Friday prayers here, Ayatollah Meshkini said that since the assembly began its first working session two weeks ago, the 68 experts had approved internal regulations, and approved the legal details of Article 111 of the Constitution which deals with the situation when the leader of a member of the leadership council loses one of his qualifications. He added that the assembly had also chosen a "research committee" from among its members that would work as advisors for the leader.

The chairman said he (?was very) satisfied by the work of the assembly and added there was not an assembly in the world with the friendly and sincere atmosphere that existed in the assembly of experts.

On the Val-Fajr-2 operation, Ayatollah Meshkini called on the Iraqi people and ulema in Iran to go to the warfronts and establish an Islamic republic in Iraq.

On the obstacles created by Saudi Arabia against the Iranian pilgrims, the Friday prayers leader said that the Saudi regime had blocked the travel of the Iranian pilgrims because they had shouted "death to America" and "death to Israel" in hajj ceremonies last year.

He expressed fear that the Saudi [word indistinct] would prevent Muslim pilgrims from other countries from travelling to Mecca and "the U.S. and Israel would occupy the Second qibla (direction of [word indistinct] which Muslims stand for prayer) of Muslims like the first Al-Aqsa Mosque in (?Jerusalem)."

Khamene'i on Army Inspection, Continuation of War

LD301928 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Officials in charge of the inspectorate of the Ground Forces units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran today met with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

After a report submitted by the head of the Ground Forces inspectorate, the president in a speech expressed his delight for the recent victories and wished success to the combatants of Islam. Referring to the importance of inspection in the army organization, he said: This issue is one of the effective measures; we need the presence of commanders and officials in various army departments and if this need is not met and the officials are not placed in the right places, we will certainly not have the required efficiency.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: Thank God the body of the army is very good, healthy and reliable. Today the army officials are healthy and perform with honor. Since the beginning of the revolution, our officials have never been as good and satisfactory as they are today.

Referring to the observance of order and discipline in the army and maintaining this chain of command, the president said: You must attach a special importance to order and to the chain of command and view disorder as a violation. You are required to deal with indifference toward the army anywhere you see it. You are required to assess our potential because today we need the army to take quick steps with all its capacity for the revolution. This is not only confined to the army, but is also applicable to all the institutions and government organizations.

The president added: Today our forces are fighting with full power on the northwestern and southern fronts of the country and that is why those weak people who had pinned hopes on the preservation of the imposed and aggressive Iraqi regime are becoming disappointed when they see the forces of Islam becoming more powerful.

Referring to the heroism shown by the strong Islamic victors on the battlefronts, Mr Khamene'i said: Your move on the fronts stopped the mischievous movements of those who conspire against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today the stability of the Islamic Republic is known to everybody. Today in the economic, political,and military fields we are in a situation that pleases our friends. The Val-Fajr II operations, which God willing, will be honorably continued further, once again brings up the views of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for those who wish to form a healthy opinion of this war: We have no intention of aggression or conquest; we defend our Islamic and revolutionary honor.

The president added: We have committed neither oppression nor aggression because the Koran has taught us to neither commit oppression nor to accept being oppressed. We will rightly continue this struggle and war until the elimination of the signs

of aggression which include all the damages inflicted on our nation.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council noted: In this war we consider not only the interests of the Iranian nation but the interests of the Iraqi and all the Islamic nations. The correct stance of the Islamic nations toward this war is the same as our right-seeking stance. To continue following this correct path and to reach the end of the line we are following for the sake of the truth, we must use all our potential.

IRNA Account

LD302116 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA — The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i in a meeting with officials and inspection officers from the ground forces units said today "We have no intention of aggression or conquest. We are defenders of our Islamic and revolutionary dignity."

The president added "The Iraqi aggressors and their partners must accept that the Islamic Republic will show steadfastness for its rightful positions."

"We have not perpetrated cruelty nor any aggression. Koran has taught us not to be cruel, and not to accept cruelty against ourselves either. We will continue to fight until all the signs of aggression which includes all damages inflicted upon our nation, are removed" President Khamene'i said.

"In this war not only do we have the well-being of the Iranian nation in mind but also that of the nation of Iraq. What is being done is for the good of all Islamic nations, and the appropriate position to be taken by the Islamic nations concerning this war is the rightful position that we have" the president went on to say.

"To continue on this rightful path and reach the end, we are obliged to use all means at our disposal" President Khamene'i added.

In another part of his speech the president said "Today our combatant forces are powerfully fighting in the North-Western and Southern fronts. This is why the unprincipled and the weak-minded elements who were attached to the steadily deteriorating aggressive Iraqi regime were disappointed... "

In his address to the ground forces personnel President Khamene'i said "Your moves at the warfronts could stop the vicious moves of the plotters against the Islamic Republic, and , today the stability of the Islamic Republic has become obvious for every one".

"Today in the economic, political and military scene we are in a position which gladdens our friends and, God willing the Val-Fajr operations which will have other victories in future, once again propound the views of the Islamic Government of Iran to those who wish to have sound view-points in the war" President Khamene'i continued.

In another part the president who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council said the army was healthy and reliable and the army officials, too, have never been as today.

The president concluded by saying that although the war has caused damages in terms of development etc. but it also gave an extraordinary power to our Islamic combatants.

Operational Headquarters Issues Communiques

Communique No 8

LD291735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Communique No. 8 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpts] The mighty and courageous combatants of the Islamic Armed Forces are continuing their battle against the vanquished enemy forces, thus recording new impressive victories in the history of the Islamic nation's battle against global infidels and their agents.

Continuing the Val-Fajr II operations, commanded by the Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters — the joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps — the Islamic combatants, in a series of coordinated operations directed against the 2,000-meter Gaduk heights, last night succeeded in seriously defeating yet again the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces.

After killing or wounding hundreds more Saddamist mercenaries and smashing enemy equipment in the area, they established their position on these heights.

Having occupied the area, the Islamic forces fully dominated Choman Mustafa and Gilali, one of the enemy's important command and transport centers. All enemy movements in the area are now within the range of Islamic fire.

Last night, the weakened enemy tried to recapture the liberated areas that were captured during Val-Fair II operations; the enemyreorganized his vanquished forces and launched a counterattack.

However, this counterattack met with a severe response from our valiant forces. Suffering heavy casualties and losses, the counterattack and the enemy's resistance were foiled and smashed.

[Signed] Hamzeh Seyyed as-Shohada, joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 9

LD301829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Communique No 9 of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters]

[Excerpt] Muslim and revolutionary nation, dear martyr-nurturing nation of Iran: Our brave sons, the selfless combatants of the army of Islam, consisting of the valiants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, selfless guards and mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Muslim Kurdish peshmerga and Muslim Iraqi combatants, implemented the final push of the victorious Val-Fajr II operation last night on the Piranshah-Ravanduz axis in Iraq. Last night the mighty forces of Islam executed a series of coordinated operations and inflicted heavy blows on the enemy's defeated force on the (Kodu) heights. They killed or wounded hundreds of the Zionist enemy and liberated 29 enemy bases on those heights and surrounding areas.

The forces of Islam stationed themselves on the 3000-meter heights, which have special strategic value, and brought the enemy position deep inside Iraq territory under their control and heavy and crushing fire, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy.

Today, our able forces also began mopping up the liberated areas and continued to collect weapons and equipment left behind by the enemy.

The high-flying pilots of the Air Force conducted a series of successful helicopter operations and transferred the forces of Islam behind the lines of the defeated enemy. They surrounded and crushed the Saddamist mercenaries. They also attacked enemy concentrations and killed or wounded a large number of the enemy.

The mighty combatants of Islam are determined, until the realization of the war, war until victory slogan, to continue their sacred battle against the Zionist-Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq and at any time and any place to inflict their repeated heavy blows upon the dying and smashed body of the Zionist-Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq.

Val-Fajr III Operations Launched 30 July

Communique No 1

LD301908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Communique No 1 issued by An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters on 30 July]

[Excerpt] Conquerers of the Islamic army, valiants of the army of the Koran, may your faith remain firm and your battle victorious. Anti-infidels and courageous fighters of the fronts of light, attack the weakened enemy by relying on God's special blessing and His invisible assistance, for an awakened and heroic nation is counting on your glorious victories.

Combative Islamic nation, Muslim and hero-nurturing Iranian nation: Your God-seeking and selfless sons, relying on God Almighty and led by the leadership of the commander in chief, Imam Khomeyni, in the execution of the complementary stage of Val-Fajr II, under the command of Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, early this morning launched the glorious Val-Fajr III operations. The operations began under the codename "O God, O God, O God" under the command of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The operations were launched to get rid of the aggression of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime against the Islamic homeland, to smash the enemy forces, to recapture another sector of the Islamic homeland in the Mehran area, to remove the town of Mehran and its suburbs from the direct observation of the Zionist enemy, to liberate the overlooking heights in the region as well as the border bases in the Mehran area and to block the Kanja Cham River. Our forces succeeded in dealing heavy blows to the Zionist enemy in the early hours.

The courageous combatants of the Islamic army, comprising the selfless combatants of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the devoted guards and mobilization personnel of the Revolution Guards Corps, succeeded in the early hours of the offensive to cross over the enemy's preliminary obstacles and, while inflicting heavy losses on the Ba'thist-Zionist aggressive forces, to kill a great many of the enemy troops and wound many more. They also captured a number of enemy personnel. So far,more than 70 of the POW's have been transferred behind the lines, with more POW's being in the process of transfer and evacuation.

The God-seeking troops, in the course of these operations, havesucceeded in securing the town of Mehran and its suburb from the direct observation of the Zionist enemy and have establishedthemselves in the region's heights and villages. They also hoisted the glorious Islamic Republic's flag in the area, the area of our sacred Islamic homeland which, since the Ba'thist aggression, has been under the occupation of the Saddamists.

The anti-infidel valiants of the Islamic army, relying on the eternal divine powers, continue their relentless battle against the enemies of Islam. They will continue Val-Fajr III operations until the predetermined objectives are achieved.

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 2

LD311219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Communique No 2 of An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters]

[Excerpts] To the God-seeking Islamic nation, the warrior-like Iranian nation: In continuation of the successful Val-Fajr III operation, which began in the early hours of yesterday with the codewords "O God, O God, O God" and under the command of

the An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the heroic Islamic combatants pursue with victory and triumph their battle to destroy the aggressive Ba'thist- Zionist forces, to repulse the seditious aggression of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime against our Islamic homeland, to destroy enemy forces, to free the town of Mehran and its vicinity from the direct sight of the Zionist enemy, to liberate the commanding heights in the region and the border posts in the Mehran region, and to liberate the Kanja Cham River dam and the Mehran-Dehloran axis.

In their successful operations, the Islamic combatants have crossed extensive minefields, various obstacles and canals dug by the Zionist regime, occupied enemy positions, liberated the town of Mehran and surrounding villages from the direct fire and sight of the aggressive Saddamists, and liberated the Kanjan Cham River dam and the Farrokhabad border post.

The Islamic combatants who have killed or wounded more than 1,200 of the Zionist enemy forces and captured more than 100 [as heard] of the enemy forces — 110 [as heard] of whom have been taken behind lines — have brought under their control the important and strategic Mehran-Dehloran road, which is the main communication axis linking the country's western border region to the south of the Islamic homeland. In addition, owing to the commendable efforts of the Islamic combatants comprising warriors from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, selfless members of the Corps and mobilization units, three important heights in the Mehran border region have been liberated and our powerful forces have hoisted the most proud banner of the Islamic Republic of Iran over these heights.

In these operations, Iraq's Durraji border post was also captured by the Islamic combatants; the personnel stationed there were all killed, wounded, or captured.

Since the beginning of the victorious Val-Fajr III operation,the (Balal) Commando Company and 1st Company of the 420 Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi aggressive forces have been completely wiped out and routed [as heard]; heavy blows have been dealt to other enemy forces in the region, and large quantities of enemy weapons and equipment have been set on fire and destroyed. On just one operational axis, more than 10 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed by the crushing fire of Islam's fighters against infidels. The relentless battle of the heroic Islamic combatants to achieve the predetermined objectives of the operation continues with full superiority.

[Signed] An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, center of joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Corps

'Latest Report' From An-Najraf Ashraf Headquarters

LD311748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] The latest report from the An-Najaf Ashraf Headquarters, joint operational headquarters of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

The mighty Islamic combatants, continuing the victorious Val-Fajr III operations which began in the Mehan region, succeeded in consolidating the liberated heights and territory during today's operations. Our fighting forces also succeeded today in smashing the enemy's convulsive attempts to recapture the liberated areas in the operational theater through reorganizing its declining forces; heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy. Moreover, by foiling the enemy's counterattacks, our forces killed or wounded more than 1,800 aggressive enemy troops. Since the beginning of the Val-Fajr III operations, therefore, the total number of enemy troops killed exceeds 3,000. Furthermore, a considerable quantity of enemy equipment, including 15 tanks and personnel carriers and dozens of Iraqi vehicles, was set on fire and destroyed.

Continuing their Val-Fajr III operations, the combative Islamic fighters liberated the Farrokhabad region, situated 2 km due northwest of Mehran, and hoisted the proud Islamic Republic flag over this area of the Islamic homeland after nearly 3 years. According to an ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY [IRNA] report from the region, the mighty Islamic fighters have consolidated the liberated sectors which were recaptured during these operations. The same report adds: In the entire operational theater, fighting continues trench by trench, using various heavy and light weapons.

The Iraqi forces, having lost the power to resist the mighty Islamic combatants and having suffered further heavy defeats following the new phase of the Val-Fajr operations, this morning attempted a series of abortive air strikes on the Islamic forces' positions to try to remedy their defeats. According to military experts in the region, the air raids by the deteriorating Saddamist enemy, which are gaining momentum as the Iraqi land forces continue to suffer more defeats, are indicative of the enemy's weakness as well as the underlying decline in the much-harmed Iraqi troops in the An-Najaf operational sector.

On the basis of an IRNA report, these air raids have been repelled by the air cover provided by the Islamic Republic Air Force as well as the timely defense of the alert units in the region, with the enfeebled enemy admitting its defeat by fleeing and dropping its bombs in the desert. Several members of the mobilization unit in the frontline report that in the course of this morning's dogfight over the Val-Fajr III operational theater the weakened Iraqi forces dropped some of their bombs on their own forces by mistake.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns of 'Other Serious Plans'

LD311112 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said today that the Val-Fajr III operation (begun early Saturday in the Mehran region) was very successful and warned the Iraqi regime that the Islamic forces would have "other serious plans soon for ending the war."

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis, Rafsanjani urged the combatant Iranian Muslim nation, especially those youths who had completed their military training, to go to the warfronts because, he said, all conditions for putting an end to the war and

"wiping out the roots of corruption in the region" were prepared. Imam Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defence Council added that the Iraqi regime had launched a familiar propaganda campaign even before the Islamic Republic announced the objectives of its newest offensive.

"They said in their propaganda that the Iranian forces moved to capture the city of Zorbatiya (in Iraq) but 'our (Iraqi) heroic forces' had prevented them...such tricks could only last for only one or two days. When the sensitive points of this new offensive is clarified and when its objectives, most of which have been gained, are explained, then it would become clear what our (Iranian) combatants planned and what the victories have been."

Rafsanjani then addressed the regional supporters of the Iraqi regime and said that the only way to realise the war's end was for them to stop helping Iraq.

"If they (the regional supporters of Iraq) want the war to end, which they don't, the only solution is to stop supporting Saddam," he said.

He further went on to say that as the war continued each day, Iraq and the reactionaries Arab countries would be responsible for every fired bullet, every martyred soldier, every damaged building and any other problem caused for Iran and Iraq.

He said the countries of the region should allow the people of the region to continue on their path, which is the path of God to struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,398

LD291751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,398 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, yesterday, in the Sar Dasht area, the exchange of fire between our forces and the enemy continued and our combatants maintained their supremacy of fire. The heavy weapons fire of the warriors of Islam destroyed several weapons emplacements and three trucks belonging to the Iraqi forces. A number of enemy soldiers were killed.

In the border region of Baneh, sporadic exchanges of fire continued and considerable damage and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Marivan front, the artillery forces fired on Iraqi positions and forces in the (Tutman) region and the (Mar) Valley. The fire of the Saddamist mercenaries was silenced and their troop movements in the region were stopped. A number of the enemy's heavy and light weapons emplacements and their corresponding crews were destroyed.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran, the powerful combatants of Islam, returning the Iraqi artillery fire, opened fire on enemy infantry, tank and artillery positions, destroying parts of these positions and inflicting considerable casualties on the Saddamist mercenary forces.

Also, on the Sumar fronts, two enemy ammunition dumps and heavy weapons were set on fire. The explosions from the fire continued for hours. Also our combatants' fire on the Iraqi supply routes halted the enemy's supply and engineering preparations.

Yesterday, the powerful combatants of Islam, on the southern fronts of the country, continued to defend their positions. Their defensive fire and patrols checked the activities and troop movements of the Iraqi forces. Our forces stopped the fire of the Saddamist mercenaries and prevented their efforts to fortify their positions.

In the exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, the combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silencing Iraqi fire. Our forces halted the enemy's engineering operations and troop movedments on the other side of the Arvand Rud and inflicted damage and casualties on them. The city of Abadan came under enemy heavy weapons fire and the city's installations sustained damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,400

LD301853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,400 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing its congratulations for the glorious victories of our valiant combatants of Islam in the Val-Fajr II operation's final phase and for the triumphs achieved in the Val-Fajr III operation, reports on the Yesterday, in the Marivan sector, the Islam valiants' heavy fire on enemy concentrations in the (Tutman) Haft Suy (?Zabalan) and Kulan regions, in addition to halting the Saddamists' artillery fire, destroyed several enemy bunkers and killed a number of Iraqis.

In the border region of Baneh, exchanges of fire continued, and, as a result of our combatants' fire, one enemy mortar was destroyed and several foxholes and bunkers were set on fire. On one of Bakhtaran's border fronts, two enemy ammunition dumps were destroyed.

In the past 24 hours on the southern fronts, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued between the combatants of Islam and enemy forces. On a few fronts, under cover of support fire, the enemy tried to change positions, but our fierce fire halted their activity. Also as a result of our combatants' heavy fire, enemy engineering work was halted. Attacks on the enemy's artillery positions halted the Iraqi fire.

On the Śharhani and (Zubeydah) fronts, our forces discovered enemy patrols and forced them to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,404

LD311832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Aug 83

[Communique No 1,404 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His most exalted name. Intense fighting and exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the Val-Fajr III operational fronts, with the mighty Islamic combatants maintaining their dominance over the region by defending their positions and smashing the enemy's movements. Fierce fighting by the mighty Islamic combatants in the Val-Fajr III battlefields yesterday smashed the last-ditch resistance put up by the Saddamist mercenaries on the important heights of the region. Consequently, the victorious Islamic forces, having killed or wounded a considerable number of Iraqi troops, succeeded in capturing more than 100 enemy personnel and took as booty a number of tanks and personnel carriers.

Following a series of artillery and heavy weapons fire by the Islamic forces, a number of Iraqi vehicles were set on fire and destroyed near the Durraji region. On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, sporadic exchanges of fire continued between our forces and the Iraqis, with the intensity of the fire being greater in the Sumar area; two enemy trucks carrying troops were set on fire and their personnel killed. On the Baneh and Marivan fronts, exchanges of fire continued with our forces maintaining their superiority and silencing enemy fire.

On 29 July, the Iraqi mercenaries brought the town of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab under their heavy fire, destroying a number of houses and wounding two of our dear compatriots.

In the southern fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy continued, with our combatants maintaining their control over the movements and deployment of Iraqi forces by continuing to consolidate their defensive positions, defending their bases, opening fire on the enemy, and dispatching patrol groups. As a result, our forces inflicted casualties and losses on the enemy. On the Abadan front, the Gendarmerie fighters responded to enemy fire by opening fire on its positions on the far bank of the Arvand Rud, thus silencing its fire, causing casualties and losses to the Iraqi forces, and stopping enemy movements on the other side of the Arvand Rud. Abadan came under heavy fire from the Iraqi mercenaries yesterday; one house was destroyed and fire raged in parts of the city.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Trial Set for Former Navy Commander, Tudeh Members

LD301555 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA — Atabaki, the prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution's court of the Armed Forces, said Saturday that former commander of the Navy, Captain Bahram Afzali would go on trial by the end of Mordad along with other military members of the outlawed Tudeh party.

He said the trial would begin by the end of Mordad (ends August 22).

Leaders of the Tudeh party were arrested last February and confessed on television to espionage activities for the Soviet Union. After the confessions Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni was named the new commander of the Navy on 2 April.

8 MKO Members Executed for Aiding Bani-Sadr Flight

LD301410 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 30, 30, IRNA — Eight active members of the hypocrite Munafiqeen terrorist group (MKO), executed Thursday on charges of being involved in the flight of the ousted President Abol-Hassan Bani-Sadr from the country.

The verdict was issued by the Islamic Revolution tribunal of the on the anniversary of the flight of Bani-Sadr and his companions.

Meanwhile, another MKO member who had played active role in Bani-Sadr's flee, had been killed in one of the MKO's hideout raids. Three other MKO members have been tried in absentia and sentenced to death.

Another follower of the terrorist organisation has been sentenced to ten years of imprisonment for rendering financial assistance to the MKO.

Deputy Minister Confirms Oil Price Increase

GF301700 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Terxt Tehran, July 30, IRNA — The deputy oil minister for the international trade, Abbas Honardust, today confirmed a recent report carried by *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* that Iran will increase the price of its heavy crude oil by 20 cents a barrel.

In its latest issue the Japanese daily reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran has informed the Japanese companies that it is planning to increase the price of its heavy crude oil by 20 cents a barrel raising the price to 27.10 dollars per barrel as from August 10, 1983.

The paper further added that contracts have been signed by nine trade companies of Japan for the purchase of 300,000 barrels of Iranian oil.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Armed Forces

LD292314 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Thursday that all forces, including the armed forces, revolution's guards, ordinary people, university students and staff and artists actively participated in the Val-Fajr-2 operations, all of whom cooperated with a morale of self-sacrifice. He then hoped that these forces would work closer together in a near future for construction of this society.

Speaking to educational ideological-political units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps of the country, the inspectorate officials of the ground forces and a group of [word indistinct] and Higher Education Ministry staff, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the armed forces were moving towards independence and serving Islam and Muslims.

Addressing the inspectors of the ground forces, he said that the observing of humanity was important and that the group was responsible for eliminating unbrotherly inhuman relations inside the armed forces and pinpointing the main reasons of shortages.

Praising the services of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps educational units, he said that these classes had changed a huge number of youth into wise and learned elements, and that after the end of the Iraqi imposed war, we will have many skilled and devoted Muslims who would insure the country's future for tens of years. The Majlis speaker continued that those who had passed the hardships of battle would not be so easily led astray and would dutifully safeguard the revolution climate.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the staff of the Culture and Higher Education Ministry, said that the former regime suppressed learning, sought to destroy feelings, chastity, Islamic and human morale and ideas of university students. He said it taught students to look for certificates rather than knowledge. Enumerating other aspects of higher education in the past regime which were aimed at spoiling the youths and wasting their talent, the Majlis speaker said that the changing of universities to Islamic educational institutes needed time, planning and manpower and this should be done by those involved.

Prime Minister Reports on 24 July Cabinet Meeting

LD241251 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 83

[Text] IRNA reports that the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. At this session, international political developments were reviewed and the country's latest political and social events, particularly the recent victories of Islam's combatants, were discussed.

Following the session, Mr Musavi said in an interview: At the session, detailed discussions were held about the way in which our combatants fought against the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist infidels and about the victories achieved. Reports received indicate the extensive dimensions of operations by brother combatants, including the Armed Forces, the guards, the Gendarmerie forces, mobilization members, and Muslim tribesmen. Despite the Iraqis' modern equipment,they were unable to achieve victory. The victory would have an extremely beneficial impact upon the region. He added: In the course of their operations, our combatants, having reached Haji 'Umran Garrison, arrested a group of counterrevolutionaries being equipped by the Saddam regime and inflicted fatal blows on them. This was in fact a blow to the dependent democrats.

The prime minister further said: During its session today, the Cabinet discussed the export-import regulations and the principles governing them. It decided to have a new section called the principles governing exports, separate from the export-import regulations, and to have this as a permanent piece of legislation with specific principles. Turning to the priorities governing exports, he said: These principles envisage ways to promote exports. In actual practice, a headquarters will be set up in which the Ministry of Commerce, the Central Bank, and the minister of state for executive affairs will be represented to organize exports.

Concerning bread supplies and the changes brought about by the establishment of the flour and bread council, he also said: Thanks to the new organizations that have started work, possible shortages are being rectified [as heard]. This is being done with the cooperation of the brothers working in the grains organization. There will be extensive and sincere cooperation in this regard. Effective steps have been taken with regard to the quality of bread and the solution for the problems stemming from that. The citizens of Tehran are aware of this. Fortunately, bread is no longer posing a special situation. It must be said, of course, that none of these problems would have any connection with the quantity of wheat and flour. We have purchased wheat in adequate quantity. This year alone the amount of wheat purchased was 50,000 tons over the previous year.

Concerning the problem of rice supply, the prime minister said: A set of regulations [as heard] has been identified in this regard, the discussions on the price of which are still in progress. I do not imagine the problem will last longer than two weeks. With contacts made with the committed clergy and northern provincial Friday imams, as well as with local officials and all those who are involved in this matter, I hope the problem will be solved as soon as possible. He added. Of course, the distribution of rice was somewhat disrupted owing to the conditions that came about. We do not imagine this problem will last long. It must be said, for example, that the problem of distributing foreign rice in Tehran and all other provinces will be solved within the next 15 to 20 days. With the plans that have been arranged we will no longer have any rice problem within the next two months. With the measures adopted, imported rice will reach the people equitably.

NVOI on Torture of Arrested Tudeh Party Members

GF221734 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran
in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Jul 83

[Unattributed commentary: "More Calumnies and Lies"]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots: We have recently received a letter about the latest (?stunt) of the Islamic Government which we will now bring to your attention:

Following the cowardly and dastardly attack on the Tudeh Party of Iran and the arrest of some of the leaders and cadres of the party, the regime's authorities sounded the (?bells and drums) across every alley and district, as if they had achieved a great historical victory. The despicable physical and mental torture, as well as the use of drugs, and the puppet show of the so-called television confessions, brought nothing but humiliation and disgrace to the regime's leaders.

All this clamor and protest regarding the discovery of documents and evidence of espionage by the Tudeh Party of Iran (?burst) like a bubble and resulted in this speech by the "leader of the world oppressed": Even if not another shred of evidence is found regarding the espionage activities, the fact that the Soviets are defending them is ample proof that they are Soviet spies. Exalted is the creator! That was really a prophet-like utterance!

Naturally, throughout the period preceding the revolution, and during the course of the revolution and during the period when the U.S. and British imperialists and their agents imposed a moratorium and economic embargo on our revolutionary country and threatened it with direct military action, the Soviet Union defended it in word and deed against the conspiracy of the United States and the counterrevolutionary elements. Therefore, by this prophet-like logic, they are also Soviet spies.

The leaders and the officials of the regime saw that the greater the uproar they created, the more they disgraced (?themselves), so they announced the Tudeh Party as dissolved and they hatched a scheme of silence. They left the pulpits and mass media alone temporarily and accelerated the torture and cruelty in the prisons so that they could discover more substantiating evidence than the prophet-like one! They killed the most noble and illustrious scions of Iran with their bestial torture — and they did not even spare the women. But they were still unable to find any reason or evidence of spying by the Tudeh Party of Iran. Now, not only are they trying to interpret the services of the Tudeh Party of Iran in attaining the fruits of the revolution in building the Islamic Republic of Iran but,on the one hand, they are attributing the valuable services of the party to their own credit accounts without the least bit of shame and,on the other hand, they accuse the Tudeh Party of Iran of being instrumental in hatching a plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For example, during the sermons before the Friday prayers, reference was made to the successive conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries such as the Monafeqin [hyprocrites] and the Tudehis. Reference was also made to the Tudehis about the abortive Nowzheh coup. It was said: A (?month) before the Nowzheh coup, an inkling of the coup was obtained and the mother of one of the officers who knew about the coup d'etat forced her son to go to the Vali-ye 'Asr Garrison and to divulge the information to the officials of the Islamic Republic. This was God's will that occurred through the services of an Iranian mother for the benefit of the nation, and the elements of the coup d'etat were arrested near the Laleh Park by the noble revolution guards. They talked about the Tudehis as if they are in the same category as the counterrevolutionaries, and of the successive conspiracies in the same breath as the coup of Nowzheh, and they know very well that the Tudeh Party of Iran was instrumental in discovering the Nowzheh coup d'etat plot.

Not one night before the coup, but 5 days earlier, the matter was laid before the officials of the Islamic regime. The Tudeh Party of Iran, with the (?help) of confirmed information stressed to the Islamic regime's officials that the matter was very dangerous. The conspiracy hatched by the United States had been (?meticulously) prepared. Those responsible for formulating it were the monarchist counterrevolutionaries who wish to bring the diminutive Reza to Iran and to place him on the throne as Reza Shah II.

The agents of the United States and Great Britain who had infiltrated into the administration, judicial, and security departments, were in league with the coupists and were engaged in thwarting all efforts to foil the coup until the last moment. Two hours before the bus carrying the Nowzheh coupists to Hamedan, one of the higher echelons of the Tudeh Party of Iran despite the risk of an attack on his life, (?informed) the officials of the regime of the following:

Gentlemen, the leaders of the coup d'etat have met and decided to go to Hamedan and the danger is extraordinarily great, because tomorrow will be too late.

Because of these (?circumstances), the agents of the United States, Great Britain, and the Islamic regime saw that the conspiracy had been unearthed and through him it was apparent that the direct link with the coupists would be discovered, so the concerned officials sent the guards to the Laleh Park and arrested the coupists. This is the truth of the discovery and foiling of the Nowzheh conspiracy of the United States.

Although some of the Islamic Republic regime's officials, who had complete knowledge of these events, were killed at the hands of the U.S. and British agents; although most of the leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran who are languishing in the prisons of the regime played a vital part in the discovery and foiling of this conspiracy [word indistinct] and are being tortured at the hands of the same U.S. and British agents and perhaps most of them have been killed, but besides the officials of the Islamic Republic's regime and the leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran, there are those who have full knowledge of these events and are roaming freely in [words indistinct] and can narrate the facts in an open trial in the presence of international representatives in detail for our compatriots and the people of the world, so that this cowardly plot may be foiled like the previous ones and the [words indistinct] and the separatists may be more disgraced and degraded, even though these individuals are already in disgrace.

NVOI Criticizes Musavi Statements on Profiteering

GF231426 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1800 GMT 22 Jul 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Water Is Muddy From The Source"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Once the bells of the disgraced rightist pseudoclergy and [word indistinct] rang in every alley, the supporters of supercapitalism and big feudalism started new acts which include the uproar about the establishment of administrative tribunals and battling monopolist and hoarding. They thus are trying to pretend that the Islamic leadership, which is held in the claws of the supporters of suppercapitalism and the plunderers of [word indistinct] and the nation, is at the moment thinking about taking serious action against the idolatrous bazaaris and godless profiteers. The people of Iran, however, know that such a clamor has no aim but to further confuse and deceive the public.

During the past 4 and 1/2 years since the victory of the revolution, not even the smallest step has been taken to improve the conditions of the people. On the contrary, they have tried with each passing day to strengthen and expand the control of the supercapitalists and big feudalists in the economy of the country. The aim of the people of Iran in their revolt was the overthrow of the monarchical regime and putting an end to imperialist control.

The pseudoclergy of the leadership, who dance to the tunes of the rightists, the CIA-struck hojjatiyehs with their black records, and other reactionary elements, and who had been talking for sometime about the creation of a society without any oppression, not only have not eradicated the injustices of the era of the shah, but they have preserved the system of oppression undaunted and are expanding the influence of U.S. imperialism in Iran in various ways. They are also avoiding the carrying out any fundamental changes and improvements to benefit the masses of the toilers of our homeland.

Currently, statements and communiques issued by Prime Minister Musavi are published or carried in the newspapers and on the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is because Mr Musavi intends to take serious action against "monopolists." Certain circles such as the Qom seminary and the Friday imams have announced their support for this action. Supposedly Mr Prime Minister acted in this respect in the past as well. However, his work had not been "supported" to date. As if it was not this same Mr Musavi and other leaders who support the monopolists and supercapitalism, who have left the hands of the plunderers and economic terrorists unfettered, and who have not paid the slightest attention to the wants of the people, the demands of a number of Majlis representatives or even the warnings and suggestions of some of the combatant Muslims who remained faithful to the goals of the popular and anti-imperialist revolution. The leadership which has fallen in the hands of the rightists and monopolists today cannot be expected to take a positive step toward the realization of the just demands of the people.

The clamor created concerning the administrative tribunals and the battling of monopolists is similar to remarks on establishing social justice in the economy which have been force fed to the people during the Friday prayers for the past 3 years.